

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An apparatus for sorting individual timber pieces of different dimensions and/or qualities into a number of mutually superposed sorting compartments (1), comprising a conveyor (2) for vertical transport along the infeed ends of the sorting compartments of individual timber pieces with their longitudinal direction approximately horizontal and transversely directed in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sorting compartments, and a transfer device (12) for transferring a specific timber piece from the conveyor (2) to a specific sorting compartment, characterised in that the transfer device (12) has at least one transfer member (13) per sorting compartment (1); and that each transfer member is movable between a passive position outside the path (4) of the conveyor and in conjunction with the infeed end of the sorting compartment, and an active position within the path of the conveyor for engagement with a timber piece carried by the conveyor and transferring it to the sorting compartment (1).

2. The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the conveyor (2) has a substantially vertical and rectilinear path of movement (4) from above and downwards, which is located a slight distance (11) from the infeed ends of the sorting compartments, which lie substantially in a common vertical plane.

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3. The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the transfer members (13) are elongate and substantially straight with slightly obliquely upwardly end section, and extend in their active positions in the longitudinal direction out from the infeed ends of the sorting compartments (1) and with the end sections slightly obliquely upwards towards the conveyor (2).

4. The apparatus as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that said transfer members (13) have roller paths (14) at least on the upper side of the end sections.

5. The apparatus as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the end sections of the transfer members (13) have circulating driven belts on which the

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timber pieces rest and which impart to the timber pieces an additional movement in a direction towards a sorting compartment (1).

6. The apparatus as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 5, characterised in that said transfer members (13) are movable in a substantially translation movement to and from active position.

7. The apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, characterised in that onto the translation movement of the transfer member (13) in the region of its active position on return towards the passive position, there is superposed a downwardly directed movement component at the end section of the transfer member.

8. The apparatus as claimed in any of Claims 6 or 7, characterised in that the translation movement for the transfer members (13) is of adjustable length.

9. The apparatus as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 8, characterised in that the conveyor (2) has carriers (5) for supporting a timber piece with approximately horizontal longitudinal direction; and that the carriers incline obliquely downwards in a direction towards the infeed ends of the sorting compartments (1).

10. The apparatus as claimed in any of Claims 3 to 9, characterised in that said carriers (5) and the end sections of said transfer members (13) have approximately the same inclination.

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